

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 21, 2001

LB 772

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...for employees, we need to bring them up to a level of salary that we can attract them, but that's to get them here. That's to pay them. The other is how are you going to keep them? They're not all as nice as we are some days to work for. It's a tough place to work. There are some great advantages, don't get me wrong. But if we want people to have stability and we want to keep competent professional people, you've got to give them some reason. And to quote one of the famous legislators, sometimes you just can't cheap out. I think that was you, Senator Wickersham. Maybe "famous" is a little strong, but it is important. You're going to have tremendous turnover, and we've known about this problem since the mid nineties. We can wait one more year, sure you can. You know what happens? Every one of your financial planners will tell you--time is important when it comes to retirement. You don't get it all in one year. Maybe we'll put it off in the next year because it's,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...you know, it's a short budget year; wait till next year for the major budget to come along, and you wait one more year. I don't think that's good policy.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Stuhr, followed by seven others on the motion to return LB 772 to Select File for a specific amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, stand in opposition to returning the bill to Select File. As a member of the Retirement Committee, I believe each of us takes our responsibilities very seriously. I'm wondering if Senator Chambers has ever served on the Retirement Committee. I'm wondering if Senator Coordsen has served on the Retirement Committee. Could you just nod your head yes or no? You have served. Senator Kristensen. I believe as a member of the Retirement Committee we have always seriously said we want to do something. But our biggest concern is doing this in a very hurried fashion. I don't believe this proposal that has been proposed to us has actually had a hearing. I do think probably the concept was there, but we have not had a hearing on